

Board of Governors warns union of operating cost crisis

By ELAINE VERBICKY

The U of A is facing a financial crisis in operating costs, the Board of Governors informed the student's union executive Monday.

The university is worried by a possible difference of at least \$1.7 million between the impending provincial government grant and the amount the university estimates it will need from the government to operate next term.

The difference could fall hard on students, the finance committee of the board told the students' union. A tuition fee hike of some size and a curtailment of enrollment are two measures which the board very likely could be forced to take.

The Board of Governors warned the executive to begin preparing

the student artillery on the question of operating costs and their relation to student fees. Students' council is now gathering information and negotiating with the government in preparation for a comprehensive brief.

"The students' union executive is completely opposed to an increase in tuition fees and is readying to fight it if it becomes a reality," said students' union president Al Anderson Tuesday.

He outlined the situation as presented by the board's finance committee.

"The Universities Commission is recommending that the government give the university \$1.7 million less than the university is prepared to operate on, because the commission feels the govern-

ment won't buy the university's figure.

"But indications are the commission request and the government grant will be apart as well—the government is prepared to give even less. The government decision is expected next week.

"The Board of Governors sees three alternatives to meet operating costs:

- enough government money be made available to cover legitimate university requirements.
- enrolment be curtailed and faculty quotas be set.
- tuition fees be increased.

If the government grant is insufficient, the finance committee of the board will recommend to the board that tuition fees be increased.

If the government grants the request of the Universities Commission—\$1.7 million less than the university needs—students will be made to pay in increased fees about \$1.2 million of the difference.

If the government grant is even lower, students could be asked to pay more than this, and fewer students could be admitted to reduced facilities.

This year there are about 11,500 undergraduates paying tuition. Enrolment projections for next year anticipate about 13,000.

The final decision on tuition fees rests with the Board of Governors. The provincial government has never set a policy on the relation of provincial education costs to student assessment for them, so the

decision remains internal in the university administration.

But two weeks ago the government announced it would be easier to get a student grant or loan next year.

"There has been an implicit fostering of university education in this province," said Anderson. "If the government makes grants easier, and then forces tuition fees up, the effect of the first move will be lost."

Anderson said he does not think the board could be forced to double fees, but indicated a large increase could be coming.

He summed up the students' union position: "If we are faced with a fees increase, we are opposed to it. And we are prepared to fight."

with food like
they have at lister

The Gateway

you can't keep
anything down

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Union fee changes unlikely this year

Necessary facts missing; alternatives being studied

By DENNIS FITZGERALD

Students' council has destroyed almost any possibility of enacting the proposed students' union fee revision this year.

Monday night they tabled a discussion on the proposed fee recommendations brought forward by the Pilkington report on equalization of fees.

After the motion was tabled students' union president Al Anderson told council, "This motion would very probably ruin any chance of action this year."

A special meeting will be held Monday so a second revision of the students' union fee structure can be proposed.

The original fee revision called for all students up to their fourth year to pay \$27.50 and students from fifth year on to pay \$15. All students would have full students' union privileges.

The report assumed that all the information needed for the new fee plan was available from the administration.

WORKABLE PLAN

However, during test week the students' union executive was informed by the administration it was impossible to have a workable plan based on number of years on campus.

Students' union treasurer Phil Ponting said when he met with Provost A. A. Ryan Jan. 12, he was told "none of the desired information had ever been brought near the computers for classification."

"Also when The University of Calgary split with U of A, records of students who transferred universities were lost."

The new proposal, based on a previous study called the Maher-Roddick report, will cover a large percentage of the material in the Pilkington report.

Classification in the Maher-Roddick report is based on a student's faculty rather than his year.

The plan which will be presented for council's approval will de-

viate no more than \$10 over a five-year period for students who take a longer route to a degree, said Anderson.

"Some complications could arise because the referendum was based on specific proposals of the Pilkington report, but these would be legalistic in nature," Anderson said.

"I think we must act on the intent of the students as presented in the overwhelming vote in favor of change, because a 90 per cent change is much better than no change at all," he said.

Tuesday Anderson commented "I was appalled at the motion to table the discussion."

"Some of the councillors obviously were very unfamiliar with the situation."

"With this special meeting, there is still a possibility of getting the new motion approved and brought to the administration in time for implementation in September."



—Ken Voutier photo

INSTANT TIDAL WAVE—Our old friend in the tractor has a new project. He was seen last Tuesday playing in Lake Tory. The campus landmark and swimming hole reappeared with the advent of warm weather, and the temptation to play in the mud puddle was just too much for some people. It does look like fun.

Increase in residence rates recommended

Expected Lister Hall deficit responsible for proposal

By JUDY SAMOIL

The expected deficit of Lister residences has resulted in a recommendation for increased rates.

"Residence fees should increase to \$100 next year to cover costs," head of housing and food services D. A. Bone said Tuesday.

"This increase will not be as much as is needed, but with expected economies we may get away with going up to this amount," he said.

Mr. Bone says he has written students' council and the residence house committees to inform them of the increase recommendation.

He has also prepared a brief to be presented to D. G. Tyndall,

vice-president for finance and administration. They will then decide on the recommendation to be presented at the next meeting of the Board of Governors.

"Last year's increase of \$8 was insufficient compared to the \$26 increase needed. The main loss is in undercharging. We lose fifty cents per day on every student in Lister Hall," he said.

The deficit results from the new \$1.25 an hour minimum labour rate, rising food costs, and increased telephone rates.

A major cause of this deficit is that the residences are unoccupied for nearly five months each summer.

In 1964 a \$96 fee was proposed. Due to protest marches and rioting this was cut to \$82 for doubles and \$90 for singles.

"We have been subsidized since, trying to get up to where we should be," Mr. Bone said. "If it had been \$96 then, the rates would probably have stayed there."

Also adding to the deficit is the mortgage payments on the residences. The first two towers were subsidized by Canada Council grants which have since been discontinued. Payments on Mackenzie Hall, the third tower now under construction, will be approximately \$133,000 per year.

Because of the shortage of funds,

the Board of Governors will probably be willing to increase the rates.

"This increase is unfortunate but is needed if we do not want to cut into the budget for the academic departments," Mr. Bone said.

Students' union president Al Anderson says he is absolutely opposed to an increase.

"I think the rates are high enough already. This will not only affect the residences but will cause landlords in the area to raise their rates proportionately," he said.

"At present, the cost of residence amounts to a penalty for the out-of-town students. This should be limited as much as possible," he said.